[Myanmar, Thailand and Laos] and Golden Crescent [Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iran];

(b) whether Mumbai is being used as a transit point for smuggling narcotics to America and Europe and the drugs smuggled from Latin America countries are routed through Delhi to Japan, Korea and South-east Asian countries; and

(c) if so, the effective steps taken to curb this growing menace;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) No, Sir. India is geographically located between two major opiates producting regions in the world namely Golden Crescent [Pakistan, Afganistan and Iran] and Golden Triangle [Myanmar, Laos and Thailand] and is vulnerable to trafficking of drugs originating in these regions.

(b) Mumbai being a large centre for trade and commerce and having an International Airport and harbour is vulnerable for smuggling of narcotics to Europe and Western destinations. Transit of drugs originating in Latin America bound for Japan passing through Delhi has not come to notice in a significant manner.

(c) Government of India is fully aware of the problem of narcotics trafficking and have taken several steps in this regard which include re-activisation of enforcement agencies throughout the country, training of the officers, up-holding of regular Coordination Meeting, developing of bilateral agreement with several countries and holding of talks with Pakistan and Mynmar.

Fradulent Operations in Commercials Banks

1509. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite innumerable policy guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank to strengthen control mechanisms in commercial banks to check fraudulent operations in current and savings bank accounts, cases of frauds continue to rise;

(b) if so, where does the fault lies that perpetrates the fraud cases; and

(c) why are the officials responsible for showing laxity in performing their duties are not dealt with severely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has report that they do not maintain separate data on fraudulent operations in current and savings bank accounts in banks. The information relating to number of frauds detected in public sector and amount involved during the year 1994, 1995 and 1996 is given below:

	1994	1995	1996
Number of frauds	2266	1890	1954
Amounts involved (Rs. in lakhs)	20007.88 +Uganda Shillings 9844000	11551.12	31937.63

(b) Frauds take place either on account of systemic deficiencies in responding to new modusoperandi or an account of non-compliance of prescribed procedures.

(c) Once a fruad is detected, the banks report the matter of Police/CBI for investigation from criminal angle. Banks also conduct internal investigations to fix staff accountability and take departmental action against the officials concerned. Information relating to action taken by public sector banks against delinquent

employees for involvement in frauds during 1994, 1995 and 1996 is given below:

	1994	1995	1996
(a) No of employees convicted	50	33	46
(b) No. of employees awarded major/minor penalty	1248	1160	1207
(c) No. of employees dismissed/discharged/removed	360	301	331

Foreign Capital Investment in India

1510. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the sector-wise and year-wise details of foreign capital invested in India during the past three years;

(b) whether there have been some outflow of capital from India during this period; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Uniform Sales Tax Structure

1511. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have taken up the matter of uniform sales tax structure with various state Governments;

(b) if so, what has been the reaction of the State Government; and

(c) whether any progress has been made in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) to (c) A meeting of the Finance Ministers of all States and Union Territories was convened by the Union Finance Minister on 4th July, 1997 to discuss the Report of the Group of Officials and Experts on Taxation of Inter-State Sales and the Report of the Committee of State Finance Ministers on Stamp Duty Reform. There was general consensus on the imperatives of reforming the Central Sales Tax and introduction of VAT.

अहमदाबाद और राजकोट दूरदर्शन केन्द्रों के खातों की लेखापरीक्षा

1512. **श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे:** क्या सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या कई वर्षों से अहमदाबाद और राजकोट दूरदर्शन केन्द्रों के खातों की लेखापरीक्षा नहीं हुई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण है;

(ग) क्या राजकोट दूरदर्शन केन्द्र में कार्यक्रम निर्माण संबंधी सम्पत्तियां सरकारी खजाने से गायब है;

(घ) क्या इस संबंध में कोई उच्च स्तरीय जांच कराई गई है;

(ङ) अहमदाबाद और राजकोट दूरदर्शन केन्द्रों के सभी विभागों के खातों की लेखापरीक्षा करने और तत्संबंधी निष्कर्षों को सभा पटल पर रखने के लिए क्या कार्यवाही की गई है; और

(च) आकाशवाणी की तुलना में लेखापरीक्षा संबंधी नीति क्या है?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री एस० जयपाल रेड्डी): (क) अहमदाबाद और राजकोट स्थित दूरदर्शन केन्द्रों के क्रमशः 30.9.96 और 30.9.95 तक के लेखों की लेखापरीक्षा कर ली गई है।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) जी, नहीं।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ङ) प्रश्न के भाग (क) के उत्तर को देखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(च) आकाशवाणी और दूरदर्शन की लेखा परीक्षा नीतियों के बीच में कोई अन्तर नहीं है।